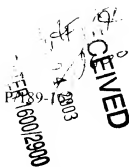


**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP ART UNIT 1615**



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Antonio Parente DUENA et al.

Date: February 24, 2003

Serial No.: 09/913,671

Group Art Unit: 1615

Filed: September 24, 2001

Examiner: M. Young

For: MICRO-CAPSULES FOR THE SUSTAINED RELEASE OF DRUGS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Box AF

Washington, D.C. 20231

**PETITION AND FEE FOR AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF TIME
UNDER 37 CFR 1.17, 1.136(a) AND 35 USC 41(a)8**

Sir:

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) the Asst. Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by one (1) month(s). Enclosed is our check No. 15185 which includes the amount of \$55.00 for the petition fee in accordance with 37 CFR 1.17 computed as:

☒ X Response within first month
_____ not small entity (\$110) ☒ X small entity (\$55)

_____ Response within second month
_____ not small entity (\$410) _____ small entity (\$205)

_____ Response within third month
_____ not small entity (\$930) _____ small entity (\$465)

You are authorized to charge to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700 any additional amounts owing.

If this petition is inadequate to avoid abandonment, the Assistant Commissioner for Patents is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), to extend the time by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. §1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 24, 2003:

Charles C. Achkar

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Charles C. Achkar

Signature

February 24, 2003

Date of Signature

WOG/CCA:lac

Respectfully submitted,

03/03/2003 AMNDFAF1 00000019 09913671

02 FC:2251

55.00 DP

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